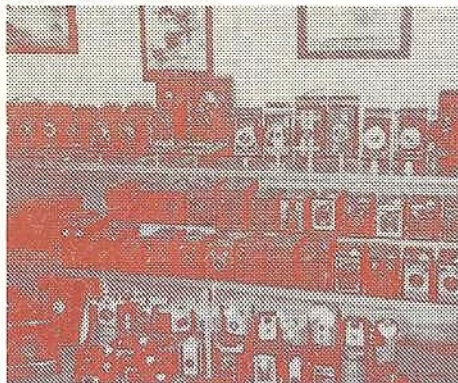
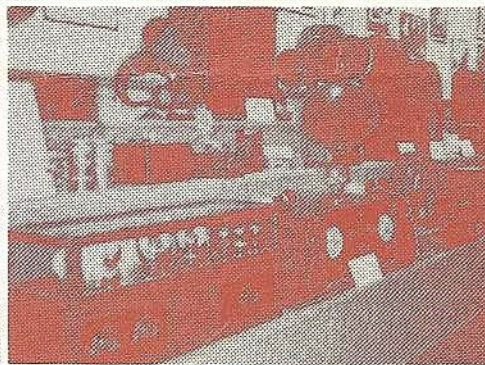
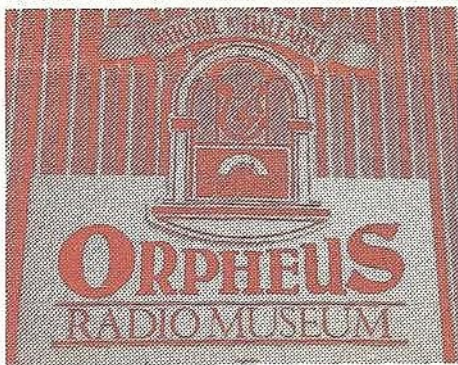
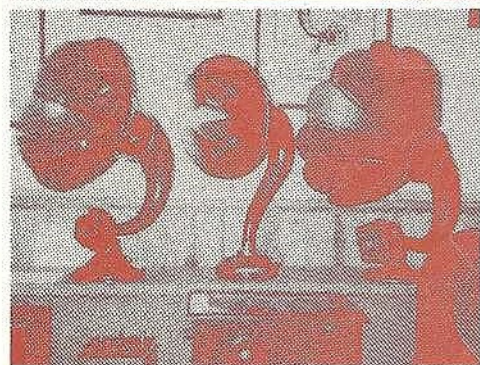
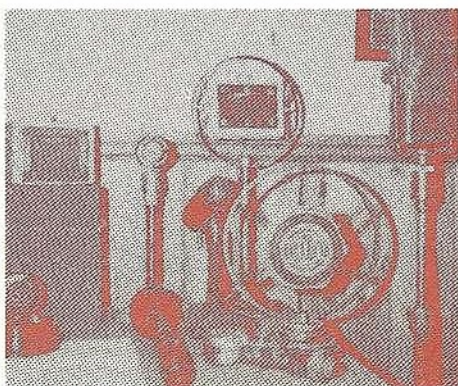




June 1991
a1/06 01

B.A.R.G. NEWS



© Monthly Newsletter of the
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

9/1/06 02

BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INCORPORATED

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Newsletter Editors:	BOB TERRILL	VK3BNC	395317	391001
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Repeaters: VK3RBA – 146.750 Voice. Mt. Buninyong (ch. 3)
 VK3RBS – 146.900 Voice. Smeaton Hill (ch. 6)
 VK3RPC – 147.575 Packet. Mt. Warrenheip

Club Net: ON 3.5610 Mhz. SSB +/- QRM
 Every Thursday at 8 p.m.

B.A.R.G. meets on the LAST FRIDAY in every month except December at the Ballarat Education Centre, Hopetoun St., Ballarat at 7.30 p.m.

Committee meetings are held at the Education Centre on the Wednesday two weeks prior to the Club meeting at 7.30 p.m. Executive committee members are expected to attend and any club member with business for discussion is welcome.

All correspondence to: The Secretary, BARG Inc., P.O. Box 216E, Ballarat East, 3350.

Applications for Awards to: Maurie Batt, RSD, Rokewood Junction, 3351.



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FEATURES

- GRAMOPHONES • VINTAGE RADIOS • VISITORS PARTICIPATION
- MEMORABILIA • AUDIO DISPLAYS • DEMONSTRATIONS • CRYSTAL SETS

The "Orpheus Radio Museum" is operated by Richard and Sonja Wilson.
 The collection includes their private collection, the 3BA collection and other items on loan to the museum.
 The museum is run with the idea of preserving the history of radio in Australia and making it accessible to the public.
 If anyone has any information or items of interest to the museum, would they please contact, or write to, the "Orpheus Radio Museum" RSD B98, Ballarat 3352. Telephone (053) 34 2513.
 Let the public enjoy your piece of Radio History.

91/06 03

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD 31st MAY 1991.

MEETING OPENED by President Ian AXH at 7.40pm who welcomed the 63 members and visitors in attendance.

APOLOGIES VK3 WN, SE, NIZ, FR, IBM, CCB.

MINUTES of previous meeting as circulated were confirmed. CAZ/DMK.

CORRESPONDENCE IN Notice of EMDRC and ~~SE RG~~ Conventions.

TREASURERS REPORT. General a/c \$205.12. VS&L a/c \$2094.70.

QSL MANAGER Jeff PAP sent approximately 1000 cards to outwards bureau.

CLUB NET Charley DCS reported that the same members were supporting Net.

NEWSLETTER. MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION URGENTLY NEEDED.

EDUCATION Ian AXH gave notice that a supplementary examination will be held on July 6th to enable students who have now completed the BARG course to have a go, but anyone wishing to take the examinations will be welcome. Ian also thanked Reg CAZ, Bob BNC and Tom DMK for their tutorial assistance.

TECHNICAL. 432mhz Beacon is up and running.
UHF repeater is completed and when the new Scalar 6db Colinear antenna comes to hand will be test run from AEX's QTH. Mt. Ben Nevis repeater is awaiting sponsorship from GTV9. The 828 and new antenna has been installed to RPC but there is still a pager problem on this repeater.

Moved AEX seconded YMW that Club purchase Scalar antenna. Carried.

WICEN. Gordon KGC has been appointed Chairman of Communications Committee.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Maury XEX attended the meeting of the WIA Western Zone on May 26th and reported that a decision was made to dissolve the Zone. (as of June 22nd I have not received any communication from the Zone Secretary or the WIA on this action.)

Gordon KGC is preparing a set of guidelines and rules for the Club foxhunts which are gaining support on Monday evenings.

There is a snag with the printing of Logo on Tee shirts so hold action on this until further notice.

MEETING CLOSED at 8.30 and George DOK then conducted the auction. Bidding was fast and furious. Thanks George, it was good fun. 73s Jim CFB.

#####

NEXT BARG MEETING Friday June 28th. 7.30pm Education Centre.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on 26th July.

#####

91/06 04

COMPUTER BITS

When it's hot, it's hot.

A Commodore C64 is a pretty good computer. Common, but good. Mine was hot in more ways than one. Over voltage from the power pack can make a computer hot, but I fixed that. It's just that some versions have a built in blanket to keep them warm. Well, the hot bits wrapped in cardboard finished in silver gloss is a pretty good effort. Seems the cardboard heat resistance supports the alfoil heat persistance which doubles as an RF shield. Sure is ecologically efficient but don't get involved in that.

Anyway, my C64 lost it's thermal underware pronto. This also improved the RF (17.734472 MHz) radiation to a receiver without antenna. S4 to S9. Good stuff! That's the second hot. I had to use trickery here. Fool the RF and not the thermals. I bought a metre of bronze flywire. Cost a bit. Didn't want to cut it so left it for a while.

A piece of sheet aluminium waved about will show where the RF is worst. Old VHF types will know this trick and it works too. Fix a piece of 1.5mm aluminium 280mm by 150mm to the underside of the keyboard section. Use the screws already there and it's easy. This did the job of the discredited cardboard and the receiver S meter was only S2 now so we are ahead.

Some ICs get too hot to touch. You can soon find them. Help them maintain their composure by glueing bits of aluminium to their tops. In my 1984 version, three hot ones got the treatment. two 70x60mm and one 70x30mm bits of 1.5mm black anodized al. fixed with two big blobs of silicone heat transfer compound and one small blob of Araldite.

These aluminium bits get nicely warm so they are doing their job ok. he C64 now works just the same but looks a lot happier.

73 de Dick VK3ABK.

From our Colac correspondent.

NEW CALL IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

The students at Colac's Trinity College have an amateur radio club station. Our callsign is VK3FXQ.

We have two computers which use packet software. Both Macintosh and IBM compatible have their devotees. When the computers are beeing used, we have voice contacts. And some of these are (how shall I say) non-standard.

Sure, the kids get the overs right. But they are so very nervous that they let go the PTT. Sometimes they change the memory so that they no longer are transmitting on the desired frequency. Other times they just let go the mike and have a panic attack.

Four Year 9 girls decided to have a go one lunch break. They put out a call in the breathless way a 14 year old can manage. When they let go of the PTT, the cw ident was received. This was entirely unexpected. They jumped! From my vantage point, it was quite funny, actually.

Oh well. So, if you are one.

The Amazing Asterisk . . .

EVERYBODY WITH a disk drive is familiar with the way you can use the filename "*" to load up a listing of the disk directory. It's probably the most commonly used feature of CBM DOS, because there are a million and one occasions when you want to know the contents of a disk.

But there is another feature of the DOS which I suspect is widely under-utilised, simply because people are not aware of it's versatility: the "" filename.*

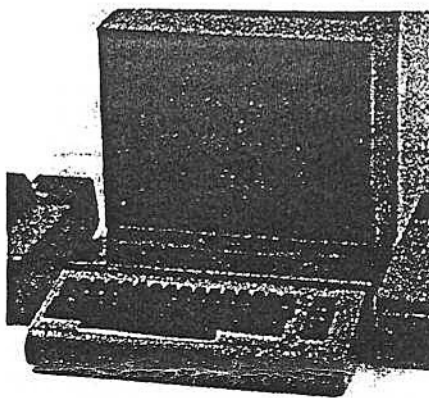
But there is another feature of the DOS which I suspect is widely under-utilised, simply because people are not aware of it's versatility: the "*" filename. Most people use it when they've first powered up and want to load the very first program on their disk. They simply type:

```
LOAD "*",8
or
LOAD "*",8,1
(for an M.L. program.)
```

(For the purposes of this article I will stick to Basic V.2 commands, but the same DOS features work equally well from the C-128's Basic 7.0, and apply to the 1570/71 drives.)

Load "*" is a useful trick, because you can safely assume that all commercial software will boot via the first program in the directory and this way you don't have to bother remembering the names peculiar to each program. However, when it's used in this form, the "*" filename only works reliably when you're loading the first program since power-up, or since the drive was last initialised. That's because the "*" filename normally calls up the *most recently* accessed file and only boots the first file, if no other has been called before.

You can use this fact to advantage, because (provided you've not loaded a new program in between), "*" will let you load



the last program SAVED, even if it's been previously scratched. That may seem a little hard to believe, but try it for yourself (on a test basis). Load up any old Basic program, then proceed as in Listing 1.

```
SAVE "TEST",8
(to save it under a new name), then:
OPEN:15,8,15:PRINT#15,"SO:TEST":CLOSE:15
(to scratch it), or alternatively:
>SO:TEST
(if you're using the DOS WEDGE), then:
NEW
(to wipe it from computer memory), then:
LIST
(to make sure it's gone), then:
LOAD "*",8
(this is the test part), then:
LIST (it should be there again!)
```

Listing 1. The "" filename normally calls up the most recently accessed file and only boots the first file if no other has been called before — try it using the above listing after loading up an old Basic program.*

That trick also works even if you've done a directory scan via the DOS WEDGE in the meantime, but it doesn't work if you've loaded the directory with Basic's LOAD "S",8 command. That disturbs the pointer and it's another reason why you should get into the habit of always loading the DOS WEDGE before you start a programming session. (You've no excuses, its supplied free on the disk that comes with your drive!) The trick also doesn't work if you change disks or power off. It's got to be the world fastest un-scratch method (but only if you do it on the spot).

Because "*" points to the last file accessed, you can also use it as a fast way to issue the VERIFY command. VERIFY "*" will automatically refer to the file you just SAVED.

It's got to be the world's fastest un-scratch method (but only if you do it on the spot).

Resetting

Sometimes you will have loaded one program, and then want to switch to another on another disk, but one which is the first on its directory. LOAD "*" won't work here; you'll get a disk ID mismatch error. What you need to do is to somehow reset the drives' "*" pointer to the default state. If you've got an SX-64 or a 128D it's easy; just press the drive reset button. If you're using the standard 64/1541 combination you will need to either have fitted a reset switch to the 64 (which also resets the 1541) or you will have to switch off the drive and then turn it on again.

Personally, I don't like turning my equipment on and off any more often than I have to. The microseconds after you first power on are the time of maximum stress for electronic components (just like light bulbs) so you'll be pleased to know that DOS provides two other ways which avoid the need to switch off. The first is to issue the initialise command "I". You do this by typing:

```
OPEN 15,8,15 : PRINT#15,"I" : CLOSE:15
or
>I from the DOS WEDGE
(see how much easier it makes things!)
```

But the easiest way to reset the "*" pointer is to simply issue the Load command with a colon before the "*", as shown here —

```
LOAD : "*",8
or
LOAD : "*",8,1
(for M.L. autostart programs)
```

This trick also works if you want to re-boot a program that loads in parts. It may have booted off the first program on the directory but then the Boot program subsequently loaded other programs off the disk. This means that the "*" will point to the last part of the program that was load-

CONT.

DON'T FORGET

NEXT MONTH AGM !!!

9/06 06

ed, not the boot that you initially loaded. The above code will reset the drive as if you had just powered it up. (It doesn't similarly affect the 64, so if you have occasional problems look to it).

Load and Run

Normally, a LOAD command will only put your Basic program into memory. It'll then wait for you to type RUN to get it going. You can issue a LOAD and RUN command by typing:

```
LOAD "X",8:
(note the colon AFTER the 8)
```

Then hold down the Shift key and tap the Run/Stop key. You will see the word LOAD appear after the colon, which doesn't seem to make a lot of sense, but your program will Run as soon as it is loaded. This tip will work on any Basic program, even if you spell out its name entirely. It's something I've often found very handy.

The "*" filename is actually a wild-card and can be used with characters before it, in which case it will search for the first file

on the directory that begins with those letters. For example, LOAD "U*",8 will load the program "Ultraterm" if it is the earliest program beginning with "U" in the directory. You can also use this wild card feature when you want to do a directory list, but are only interested in the files that beginning with say, the prefix "SND." You would issue the following command:

```
LOAD "S0:SND.*",8
```

This is helpful when you have a lot of files on a disk, and want to be able to pick out only certain ones. In Ultraterm I used the prefix "SND." to indicate that a file contains music data. By doing so I provided a way for the program to differentiate music files from text files and also provided myself with an easy way of scanning disks when I am looking for a particular tune. The screen is less likely to scroll because the files I'm not interested in aren't displayed, and this also makes it less confusing to scan.

You can use almost all the DOS features from within programs but surprisingly few people do. I think there is often a miscon-

ception that DOS commands only work in 'direct' mode — not when a program is running. It helps to remember that it's not the 64 that interprets the DOS commands; it only passes them on. It's the 'brain' inside the drive that does the real work and it only interprets orders; it doesn't care about which mode the computer was in when they were sent.

One last trick. You can also use the "*" character to search for files of a particular type, such as PRoGram, SEQuential, RELative or USer. Just use "*"=P" or S or R or U (the first letter of the file type you are after. For example —

```
LOAD "S0:*=S",8
```

will load for listing only Sequential files on the directory. You can use this command in combination with other tricks. This command —

```
LOAD "S0:S*=P",8
```

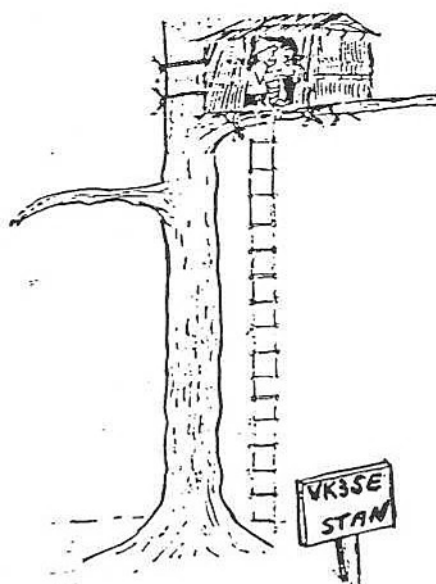
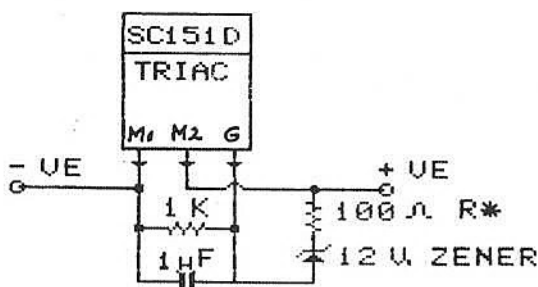
will load for listing only Program files beginning with "S". ☐

STAN'S TIPS

- 1 - If your primary cell suddenly goes flat and you are stuck on a project, pop the primary cell in a hot oven for about 5 minutes or so and it will restore enough for tests.
- 2 - Instead of having to wait for store to open to get a carbon for your Scope iron, locate a small "AAA" primary cell (not Alkaline). Inside you will find the carbon rod about 1/8 inch diameter. If you drill out the old carbon from the metal holder. This carbon rod will fit with minor adjustment.
- 3 - Try the circuit below, for your 13.8 V power supply from over voltage output protection.

NOTE: R* - Try about 100 ohms. This will cut out and blows fuse at around 15 V.

Stan - VK3SE



"...So best 73 OM and I'll see you further down

9/06 07

SEALAKE
WICEN ACTIVATION
MALLEE RALLY
=====

On the longweekend of 8th June, I took part in the WICEN activities at Sealake for the Mallee Rally. The activities involved providing a communications link on 2 metres around Lake Tyrell, this was accomplished with the use of the Wicen portable repeater located on a nearby hill. Simplex operation was also possible on 146.500 but a close channel was operated on the repeater.

Approximately 20 operators congregated at the campsite on the shores of Lake Tyrell on the Saturday afternoon and a briefing conducted that night around the campfire informing everybody of their location and duties for the next day.

There were 15 control points, four of them major points where the competitors had their cards checked, the others were observation points where the operator logged the times of each vehicle as it went passed. This information was only used when the location of a vehicle was asked for.

Operators had to be at their points by 8:30am so an early morning was called for as some had 40 to 50 kms to travel, the track around Lake Tyrell was 100 kms and only used by competitors and recovery vehicles. Access from the main roads was the usual way in and 100 kms clocked up on the Sunday was not unusual.

I was located at an observation point and the first hour was hectic because the competitors were set off in pairs 30 seconds apart, after that the routine slowed and calls involving disabled vehicles and spectator activities were the only traffic. The weather held out the whole day with sunshine and a breeze, so there was no huddling in the car to keep warm. The day finished at 3:30 pm and we all assembled back at the campsite for another gathering around the campfire.

About 12 of us watched the Motorcycle Grand Prix that night on a 5 inch black and white tv, using an 80m inverted vee aerial. Great reception believe me.

The rain finally came at about midnight and didn't stop right up until we left on Monday morning.

This activity I can highly recommend to anyone looking for a good weekend amongst fellow Amateurs, and if you want to get away from it all, ask for a point way out yonder, there are quite a few of them.

I would like to thank Don Hogg VK3XBL and his crew for their fine hospitality which included free BBQ's Saturday and Sunday night and an opportunity to try out portable gear in the field.

TOM VK3DMK.....

FOR SALE

=====

ICOM 2A Hand held transceiver with bat. charger and handbook.
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91/06 08

A \$2 J-POLE FOR 2 METRES BY Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ

How to make this little wonder...

1. Start with 1384mm (54.5inches) of good quality TV lead.
2. Strip 12mm (.5inches) of insulation and solder wires together.
3. Measure 25mm (1inch) and 38mm (1.5inches) from bottom and strip insulation between these points. About mid-way is the solder point for the co-ax feedline.
4. Measure 426mm (16.75inches) from bottom and cut out a 6mm (.25inch) notch in one side of the ribbon conductor. This tunes antenna to middle of 2 meter band.
5. Feed with a length of RG58U coax. Solder centre of co-ax to notched leg and braid of co-ax to long leg at a point around 32mm (1.25inches) from bottom. You can change this solder point length to adjust SWR, however this point should give you SWR 1.1:1 at 146MHz. Fix co-ax below feedpoint to the twin lead with a cable tie.
6. Thumbtack the top of the completed antenna in a sheltered spot outside the house and compare the Ribbon-Jay to what you were using before.

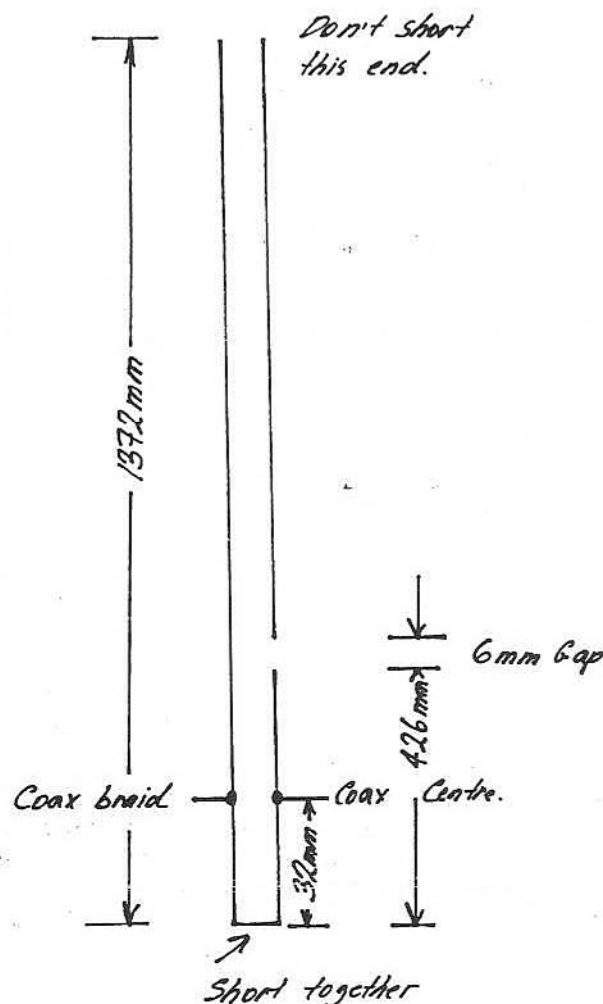
If you want the Ribbon-Jay to be impervious to weather, house the antenna in PVC pipe. Some adjustments will be needed to the antenna's dimensions as even near-carbon free pipe such as PVC Pressure Pipe used for water purposes will load up the antenna, causing resonance at a lower frequency than desired.

When housing the antenna inside PVC pipe, make sure to make pipe long enough to keep feedpoint of antenna at least 300mm (11.75inches) away from any metal mounting hardware.

Use only PVC Water Pressure pipe and do not cover or paint the PVC Pipe in any way as this will affect the loading of the antenna.

I hope you find the design as easy to use and build as I did. As they say in the classics - if a simpleton like me can do it YOU will find it a breeze!

Gavin Reibelt VK4ZZ



REPEATERS: VK3RBA - 146.750 Voice. Mt. Buninyong.
VK3RBS - 146.900 Voice. Smeaton Hill.
VK3RBU - 438.475 Voice Temp. QTH VK3AEX.
VK3RPC - 147.600 Packet. Mt. Warrenheip.

CLUB NET : On 3.610 Mhz SSB +/- QRM.
Every Thursday at 8 pm.

MEETINGS : Held every last Friday of month at 7.30 PM.
PLACE : Community Education Centre
Hopetoun St.
BALLARAT.

For some months now a number of Fox hunting teams consisting of both Club Members & Non Members have been conducting hunts on Monday nights on the 2M band & 80 M band. The competition has been keen and it has been suggested that the competition should become a formal part of B.A.R.G.'s activities for the year.

The matter was brought up at the last Club meeting and the suggestion made that the draft rules be circulated.

There have been suggested alterations submitted from the group members which will be considered but here is a copy of the original rules for your comments at the next club meeting.

1. The contest shall assemble at 1930K Hours on such Mondays as the group may decide. Cancellations are to be notified on the BARG Net on Thursday nights prior to the cancelled event.

2. The bands to be used shall be decided by the group at the start of each days events.

3. The winner of a Hunt shall become the next Fox.

4. Points will be awarded on a decending scale with the maximum points being exual to the maximum number of competitors at the start of a days competition.

eg. Six Starters: Points will be awarded 6;5;4;3;2;1; from first to sixth place.

or Four Starters: Points will be 4;3;2;1;

5. The hunt shall terminate 20 minutes after the first hound finds the fox & points awarded down to cut off time (as para 4).

6. The winner of the yearly contest shall be detirmined from the maximum points gained from the best 15 nights competition selected by each team.

(The first alteration suggested is that the points be awarded on a 4 2 1 for first second third placings.

We look forward to your comments at the next meeting so that a more formal competition can start in the new Club year.

Gordon VK3KGC

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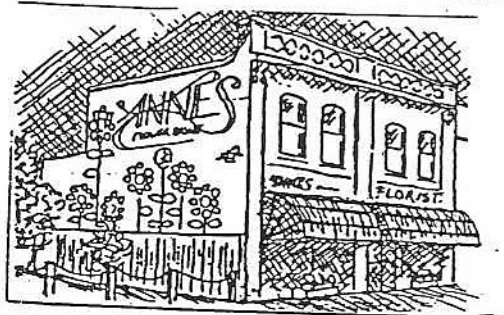
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